

# New River Valley Planning District Commission





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**Contact**  
Elijah Sharp  
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### **NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the New River Valley Planning District Commission are partnering to evaluate the rural transportation system in the region and to recommend a range of transportation improvements that best satisfy existing and future transportation needs. This partnership will result in a regional plan that identifies needs based upon goals and objectives established by the region. Improving the transportation system remains vital to improving the quality of life and continued economic growth and prosperity in Virginia. Local benefits include: identification of transportation deficiencies and recommendations of remedies, assist with comprehensive plan updates, traffic impact studies-Ch.527, programming of transportation improvements, effects of land use and development. Providing for the effective, safe and efficient movement of people and goods is a basic goal of all transportation programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### **2035 STATE HIGHWAY PLAN**

Once completed, the regional transportation plan will be incorporated into Virginia's 2035 State Highway Plan. The statewide highway plan is developed by VDOT to identify needs and recommend solutions for the Commonwealth's Interstate and primary highway systems. The regional transportation plans serve as the building blocks for the State Highway Plan and are being developed in cooperation with planning districts commissions throughout the Commonwealth. The plans will complement the transportation plans that currently exist for metropolitan areas of Virginia.

### **MOVING FORWARD**

The New River Valley Regional Transportation Plan and the 2035 State Highway Plan will be key tools for identifying and understanding the magnitude of Virginia's transportation needs and establish a foundation for making critical funding decisions for future highway projects.

These plans will provide real and tangible solutions to issues such as safety, capacity, and geometric deficiencies and will serve as key resources to determine future projects for implementation. The plans will address important regional issues such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, transit operations, intermodal connectors and park and ride lots, all significant elements in creating a comprehensive transportation network for the future.

Once completed, the 2035 State Highway Plan will serve as a key component to VTrans2035, Virginia's State-wide Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan. VTrans2035 will rely heavily on the findings of the State Highway Plan to ensure other modes of travel, including rail, transit, aviation and shipping seamlessly blend into the highway network to form one single, integrated network.





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### PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

The New River Valley region is located in southwest Virginia and surrounds the New River as it flows north to West Virginia on the district's northern edge. The New River Valley Planning District Commission (NRVPDC) serves Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, and Montgomery counties, the City of Radford, and the towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Dublin, Floyd, Glen Lyn, Narrows, Pearisburg, Pembroke, Pulaski, and Rich Creek. The Appalachian Mountains lie along the northern edge of the district while the Blue Ridge mountains form the southern edge of the district.

The three largest employment sectors within the region are manufacturing, educational services, and retail trade. The unemployment rate in the area has remained just above the Virginia rate since 2000. Median household income in the counties has a range of \$31-35,000, which was below the Commonwealth in 2000. The City of Radford has a lower household income (\$24,654) due to the presence of full-time students. The NRVPDC is home to Virginia Tech and Radford University as well as New River Community College. Tourism is an expanding economic force in the New River Valley with a variety of recreational opportunities, particularly the Appalachian Trail, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Claytor Lake State Park, and the New River Trail State Park. Numerous historical societies promote an appreciation of the region's heritage through the many culturally significant sites in the area.

#### ***Mission***

The NRVPDC serves the local governments in the area and their citizenry by providing a number of different services ranging from economic development to regional recycling. The purpose of the PDC is to promote regional cooperation, to coordinate the activities and policies of member local governments, and to provide planning assistance to local governments. The commission is financed by a combination of local, state, and federal funds.



## Leadership

[www.nrvpdc.org](http://www.nrvpdc.org) | [nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org](mailto:nrvpdc@nrvpdc.org) | 540-639-9313

### NRVPDC Director and Commissioners

David Rundgren .....	Executive Director
Fred Gerald .....	Floyd County
Evelyn Janney .....	Floyd County
Leon Light .....	Giles County
Richard McCoy .....	Giles County
Annette Perkins .....	Montgomery County, Chair
Mike Harvey .....	Montgomery County
Shawn Utt .....	Pulaski County
Joseph Sheffey .....	Pulaski County
Helen Harvey .....	City of Radford
Tom Starnes .....	City of Radford, Vice-Chair
A.T. Leighton, Jr .....	Town of Blacksburg
Holly Lesko .....	Town of Blacksburg
Scott Weaver .....	Town of Christiansburg, Treasurer
Bradford Stipes .....	Town of Christiansburg
Mike Patton .....	Town of Floyd
Richard Skidmore .....	Town of Narrows
Rebecca Moses .....	Town of Pearisburg
Joe Weddle .....	Town of Pulaski
Larry Clevinger .....	Town of Pulaski
Darlene French .....	Town of Rich Creek
Norleen Pomerantz .....	Radford University
David Dent .....	Virginia Tech
Kevin Sullivan .....	Virginia Tech



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### CONTACT LIST

Providing the most current up to date information to the media and the public is very important to VDOT. To get additional information and have your questions answered regarding this important planning process please address your questions or comments to the key team members listed below.

#### Virginia Department of Transportation

Michael Gray	VDOT Salem District Planner	Michael.Gray@VDOT.Virginia.gov	540-375-3565
Heidi Coy	VDOT Salem District Public Affairs	Heidi.Coy@VDOT.Virginia.gov	540-387-5493
Darrel Johnson	VDOT Central Office	Darrel.Johnson@VDOT.Virginia.gov	804-371-8868

*For information regarding this and other transportation related initiatives in your area, please visit the New River Valley website at [www.nrvpdc.org/Transportation/transportation.html](http://www.nrvpdc.org/Transportation/transportation.html)*

*Please visit the VDOT website to find additional information regarding this and other important transportation initiatives in your area.  
[www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org)*

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## ANTICIPATED MILESTONE SCHEDULE

